

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method for operating a point-to-multipoint wireless communication network, said method comprising:

measuring link delays between a root bridge and a plurality of non-root bridges; and

using said measured link delays to coordinate transmissions in a CSMA/CA scheme.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein using comprises: calculating a common time slot value based on said measured link propagation delays.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2 wherein using further comprises: distributing said measured link delays and said common time slot value within said point-to-multipoint wireless communication network.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 3 further comprising: aligning contention timing boundaries based on said measured propagation link delays and said common time slot values.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein measuring and using are performed by said root bridge.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein measuring and using are performed by one of said non-root bridges.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein using comprises:
assigning transmission deferral times to said non-root bridges based on said measured link delays to give access preference to more distant ones of said non-root bridges.

Claim 8 (original): A method for operating a node in a point-to-multipoint wireless communication network, said method comprising:

receiving a measured link delay and a system slot time from another node; and
using said measured link delay and said system slot time to coordinate transmissions in a CSMA/CA scheme.

Claim 9 (original): A method for operating a point-to-multipoint wireless communication network, said method comprising:

measuring link delays between an access point and a plurality of stations; and
using said measured link delays to coordinate transmissions in a CSMA/CA scheme.

Claim 10 (original): Apparatus for operating a node in a point-to-multipoint wireless communication network, said apparatus comprising:

a link delay counter that measures delays between a root bridge and a plurality of non-root bridges; and

a MAC processor that uses said measured link delays to coordinate transmissions in a CSMA/CA scheme.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said MAC layer processor calculates a common time slot value based on said measured propagation-link delays.

Claim 12 (original): The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said MAC layer processor distributes said measured link delays and said common time slot value within said point-to-multipoint wireless communication network.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said MAC layer processor aligns contention timing boundaries based on said measured propagation link delays and said common time slot values.

Claim 14 (original): The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said node is said root bridge.

Claim 15 (original): The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said node is one of said non-root bridges.

Claim 16 (original): The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said MAC layer processor assigns transmission deferral times to said non-root bridges based on said

measured link delays to give access preference to more distant ones of said non-root bridges.

Claim 17 (original): Apparatus for operating a node in a point-to-multipoint wireless communication network, said apparatus comprising:

a physical layer block that receives a measured link delay and a system slot time from another node; and

a MAC layer processor that uses said measured link delay and said system slot time to coordinate transmissions in a CSMA/CA scheme.

Claim 18 (original): Apparatus for operating a point-to-multipoint wireless communication network, said apparatus comprising:

a link delay counter that measures link delays between an access point and a plurality of stations; and

a MAC layer processor that uses said measured link delays to coordinate transmissions in a CSMA/CA scheme.

Claim 19 (original): Apparatus for operating a point-to-multipoint wireless communication network, said apparatus comprising:

means for measuring link delays between a root bridge and a plurality of non-root bridges; and

means for using said measured link delays to coordinate transmissions in a CSMA/CA scheme.

Claim 20 (original): A computer program product for operating a point-to-multipoint wireless communication network, said computer program product comprising:

code that causes measurement of said link delays between a root bridge and a plurality of non-root bridges;

code that causes use of said measured link delays to coordinate transmissions in a CSMA/CA scheme; and

a computer-readable storage medium that stores the codes.